

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 7

2 WHEREAS, Throughout history brave Americans have shed
3 their blood during wars and conflicts to preserve, protect,
4 and defend the foundation of the principles of democracy and
5 freedom; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of those that have served have been the
7 brave men and women of the State of Illinois; and

8 WHEREAS, In every military conflict and national time of
9 need since 1818, the brave men and women of the State of
10 Illinois have risen to the cause of defending democracy; and

11 WHEREAS, These brave men and women often left behind
12 family, friends, farms, and businesses, and many of them were
13 never to return, making the ultimate sacrifice for their
14 country; and

15 WHEREAS, With the signing of the Armistice ending the
16 "War to End All Wars", WWI, on November 11, 1918, the
17 veterans of Illinois were given a holiday of solemn
18 remembrance and thanks from their countrymen, which later
19 came to be known as Veterans Day; and

20 WHEREAS, The people of the great State of Illinois wish
21 to thank those numerous veterans for their sacrifices and
22 service; and

23 WHEREAS, On August 7, 1782, General George Washington
24 established the Military Badge of Merit, which on February
25 22, 1932 became the Purple Heart medal, now the oldest
26 military decoration in the world; and

27 WHEREAS, The Purple Heart medal is awarded to military
28 personnel who are killed or wounded in action against the
29 enemy; and

30 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to commemorate

1 Illinois residents who have been awarded the Purple Heart by
2 requesting the Illinois Department of Transportation to place
3 signs in the appropriate locations to identify the Purple
4 Heart Memorial Highway; and

5 WHEREAS, E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi was first elected to the
6 House of Representatives in 1964, and he served in that
7 position until his passing in 1993; and

8 WHEREAS, From his first term through his service as "Dean
9 of the House", Zeke Giorgi served the people of this State
10 with great distinction, and he is remembered by his
11 colleagues on both sides of the aisle for providing
12 invaluable guidance and leadership on many important issues;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, During all the years that Zeke Giorgi served in
15 the House, he drove between Springfield and his Rockford
16 legislative district on U.S. Highway 51 and was a strong
17 advocate for Route 51 improvements, which were completed in
18 several stages; and

19 WHEREAS, Following the completion of improvements to U.S.
20 Route 51, the highway was designated as Interstate Highway
21 39; and

22 WHEREAS, Interstate Highway 39 provides an essential
23 transportation corridor between Rockford and Bloomington and
24 other parts of Central Illinois; and

25 WHEREAS, We wish to permanently commemorate Zeke Giorgi's
26 essential role in creating this critically needed highway and
27 his abiding impact on the lives of the people of Illinois;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, Thomas William Davenport was a licensed civil
30 engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation; on
31 April 16, 1992, he was killed by a drunk driver north of his

1 home in Chatham, Illinois; and

2 WHEREAS, Thomas Davenport was a son, brother, husband,
3 and father; and

4 WHEREAS, Thomas Davenport, working with the Illinois
5 Department of Transportation, assisted with the building of
6 the bridge on South Chatham Road that crosses Interstate 72
7 and Illinois Route 36; and

8 WHEREAS, The bridge is located on South Chatham Road in
9 Springfield, Illinois, and is used as an overpass for
10 Interstate 72 and Illinois Route 36; and

11 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to remember Thomas
12 William Davenport by requesting the Illinois Department of
13 Transportation to place signs in the appropriate locations to
14 identify the Thomas William Davenport Memorial Bridge; and

15 WHEREAS, The members of the House were saddened to learn
16 of the death of Mayor Ken Hayes of Bradley; and

17 WHEREAS, He was elected mayor in 1981 and was re-elected
18 in 1985, 1989, 1993, and 1997; and

19 WHEREAS, He was born in Limestone Township on August 30,
20 1924, the son of Patrick and Catherine Hayes; the family
21 moved to Bradley when he was three months old, and until his
22 death he lived in the house that his father bought; and

23 WHEREAS, He attended St. Joseph's Grammar School and
24 Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School; he served in the
25 United States Army's 83rd Division, 331st Infantry, Company L
26 during World War II; he won the Silver Star, the Bronze Star
27 with clusters for meritorious service, a Good Conduct medal,
28 the European Theatre of Operations medal for five campaigns,
29 and the Croix de Guerre for service to France; and

30 WHEREAS, When he returned from war, Ken Hayes became a

1 precinct captain and then a committeeman; he was elected
2 vice-chairman of the Democratic Central Committee in Kankakee
3 County in 1966 and served in that role until 1972, when he
4 was elected central committee chairman; and

5 WHEREAS, When he arrived home from the Army, he worked in
6 the pipefitter's union local until he had a heart attack in
7 1963, which led him to quit his trade; he went to work
8 inspecting seed for the Illinois Department of Agriculture;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, He later went to work for the Illinois Secretary
11 of State and retired with a disability pension after a heart
12 bypass operation in 1978; and

13 WHEREAS, He was the founder of the Area Jobs Development
14 Association; was active in scouting, golfing, and the Bradley
15 Lions; and was a life member of the Bradley V.F.W.; and

16 WHEREAS, Under Mayor Hayes' strong leadership, the
17 Village of Bradley experienced unprecedented commercial and
18 retail growth, producing large increases in sales tax revenue
19 for Bradley; and

20 WHEREAS, He was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose
21 Lodge of Bradley, one of the vice presidents of the Illinois
22 Municipal League, and a member of the Mayors Association; and

23 WHEREAS, Much of the commercial growth and development
24 that Kenneth P. Hayes worked for occurred along Illinois
25 Route 50; and

26 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to remember the loss
27 of Kenneth P. Hayes by requesting the Illinois Department of
28 transportation to place signs in the appropriate locations
29 identifying the Kenneth P. Hayes Memorial Highway; and

30 WHEREAS, The Korean War has played an important part in

1 American history, and the veterans of the Korean War have
2 earned the respect and admiration of all people; and

3 WHEREAS, An armed conflict began in June of 1950 and
4 ended in July of 1953; it exacted a heavy toll: 33,629
5 Americans were killed in action and 20,617 died of injuries
6 or disease; and

7 WHEREAS, The Korean War began when the United Nations
8 urged UN members to repel the Communist aggressors in Korea;
9 in July of 1950 the UN Security Council recommended that
10 member nations contributing to the defense of South Korea
11 make their troops available to a unified command headed by
12 the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, It is appropriate for us to remember the many
14 sacrifices and contributions to the cause of freedom made by
15 the outstanding men and women who served in the Korean War;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, There are bridges on Illinois Route 51 in
18 Decatur, Macon County, Illinois, known as Route 51 Bridge
19 Number 058-0010 Northbound and Bridge Number 058-0049
20 Southbound; and

21 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to commemorate the
22 contributions of Korean War Veterans by requesting the
23 Illinois Department of Transportation to place signs in the
24 appropriate locations identifying the Korean War Veterans
25 Memorial Bridge; and

26 WHEREAS, Ronald Wilson Reagan was born on February 6,
27 1911, in Tampico, Illinois, the son of Nellie and John
28 Reagan; and

29 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan and his family in 1915 moved to
30 Galesburg, Illinois, and he began his formal education at
31 Silas Willard School; and

1 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan and his family then moved to
2 Monmouth, Illinois, and resided in that fair community during
3 his formative years from 1917-1919, and where he attended
4 Monmouth Central School; and

5 WHEREAS, When Ronald Reagan was 9 years of age, the
6 family settled in Dixon, Illinois, where at Dixon High School
7 he played football and basketball, ran track, served as
8 president of the student body, and first performed as an
9 actor; and

10 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan graduated from Eureka College in
11 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology; and

12 WHEREAS, From humble beginnings, Ronald Reagan went on to
13 become a sportscaster, actor, Governor of California, and
14 President of the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Ronald Reagan was elected President of the
16 United States in 1980; a favorite of the American populace,
17 he was elected to a second term in 1984; and

18 WHEREAS, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the
19 United States, warrants a public tribute as a son of
20 Illinois; and

21 WHEREAS, In 1999, portions of Illinois Route 172 and 92
22 from Tampico to Illinois Route 26 and the portions of
23 Illinois Route 26, Illinois Route 29, and U.S. Route 24 from
24 Dixon to Eureka were designated as the Ronald Reagan Trail by
25 Senate Joint Resolution 3; and

26 WHEREAS, The cities of Princeton, Galesburg, and Monmouth
27 were essential in the upbringing of Ronald Reagan and should
28 be included in the Ronald Reagan Trail; and

29 WHEREAS, The General Assembly seeks to commemorate the
30 accomplishments achieved by Ronald Reagan by requesting the

1 Illinois Department of Transportation to place signs in the
2 appropriate locations identifying the Ronald Reagan Trail;
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
5 NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
6 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that Interstate 74, traversing
7 through the heart of Illinois is designated as the Veterans
8 Memorial Parkway, in honor of the veterans of the State of
9 Illinois; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
11 is requested to erect appropriate plaques along this route in
12 recognition of the Veterans Memorial Parkway; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That Interstate 72, traversing through the
15 heart of Illinois, be designated as the commemorative Purple
16 Heart Memorial Highway, to pay tribute to the many thousands
17 of Illinois residents who have been awarded the Purple Heart
18 medal; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
20 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
21 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
22 giving notice of the Purple Heart Memorial Highway; and be it
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That the portion of Interstate Highway 39
25 commencing at its point of origin in Winnebago County and
26 ending at its intersection with Interstate Route 88 be
27 designated the E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi Highway; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
29 is requested to erect appropriate plaques or signs giving
30 notice of the E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi Highway; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the bridge on South Chatham Road, spanning

1 Interstate 72 and Illinois Route 36, is named the Thomas
2 William Davenport Memorial Bridge; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
4 is requested to erect, at a suitable location consistent with
5 State and federal regulations, an appropriate plaque or signs
6 giving notice of the Thomas William Davenport Memorial
7 Bridge; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That Illinois Route 50 in Bradley, Illinois,
9 from North Street to Larry Power Road, is designated as the
10 Kenneth P. Hayes Memorial Highway; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
12 is requested to erect appropriate signs or plaques giving
13 notice of the Kenneth P. Hayes Memorial Highway; and be it
14 further

15 RESOLVED, That in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of
16 the Korean Conflict, Route 51 Bridge Number 058-0010
17 Northbound and Bridge Number 058-0049 Southbound be named
18 Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
20 is requested to erect, at suitable locations consistent with
21 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
22 giving notice of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Bridge; and
23 be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Ronald Reagan Trail is extended to
25 include those portions of U.S. Route 34 from the City of
26 Princeton, through the City of Galesburg, to the City of
27 Monmouth; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation,
29 in accordance with applicable State and federal laws and
30 rules and in cooperation with units of local government, is
31 requested to erect appropriate signs, markers, or plaques

1 along the extended portions of the Ronald Reagan Trail in
2 recognition of this designation; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of
5 Transportation; the Illinois Secretary of Transportation; the
6 family of E.J. "Zeke" Giorgi; the family of Thomas William
7 Davenport; and to the family of Mayor Ken Hayes.